



The Blurb



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club

61 Years of Public Service, 1949 to 2010

Volume 60 Number 11

www.phil-mont.org

November 2010

*It's **November** and that means it's time to
cast your **Vote**,
thank a **Vet**
and... eat too much **Turkey!***

In this fun filled, action packed, exciting issue...

*Bob, W3NE has a great story about
The Bent Prop Project on page 5*

*Dick, W3RM received an update letter from a past PMRC
Scholarship recipient- see page 8*

*Al, W3STW and Barry, K3EUI expound on
the Digital Net on page 7*

And did I mention ... be sure to vote on Nov 2!!!

<i>The Blurb</i> is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. <i>Copying and quoting</i> is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. Subscriptions are available to non-members for \$12, addressed to the Treasurer. Editor: Rick DeVirgiliis ND3B nd3b@arrl.net 215-908-7225 Club Archivist: Gwen Patton NG3P ng3p@arrl.net 610-630-9862 Labels and mailing: KB3IV Submissions deadline: All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.		Directors: W3AOK (12) KB2ERL (10) WU3I (11) WA3KIO (12) N3MT (10) W3STW (11) N3XKE (12)	Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 88 Abington, PA 19001 http://www.phil-mont.org Website: Eric N3QV & Andrew KC2PMW For club information: Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: KB3IV
Committees Archives: NG3P Audit: NS3K Blurb folding: KB3IV & N3GLU Directory: KB3IV		Sunday Morning Net Schedules • 2 Meter/ 70cm Net..... at 0930L on W3QV repeater • 10-on-10 Net at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM) • 75 meter Net at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB • ARES at 2100L on the W3QV repeater	
DX: N3MT Emerg.Coor: K3HWE Field Day: KE3QB Internet: N3QV & K3XS Membership: N3XKE Net Control: KB3IV		Publicity: W3RM Program: Club VP Public Service: KE3QB Refreshments: W3AOK Repeater: W3AOK	Scholarship: W3RM Skywarn: WX3PHI Sunshine: N3GLU VE Program: NS3K Welcome: N3UBY Youth: N3MT

All visitors are welcome!

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at **Roxborough Memorial Hospital**, 5800 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128
Maps and directions are available at www.phil-mont.org.

License Examinations are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at **Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002**
Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or jmccloskey@msn.com for the latest information.

Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System
Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA **Trustee: W3RM**
147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz
Reach us on EchoLink through W3QV-R
W3AA Trustee: WU3I
W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: N3QV

The Officers

Pres: KB3IV Ed Masarsky 310 Saw Mill Ln. Horsham PA 19044 kb3iv@comcast.net
Vice Pres: N3QV Eric D. Marano, PO BOX 233, Skippack PA 19474 n3qv@arrl.net
Sec: KB3MIV Jen Miller 9427 Kirkwood Rd. 1st Fl. Phila 19114 jencaz@verizon.net
Treas: W3RM Richard A. Moll roger.mike@verizon.net
Asst. Treas: N3MT Michael P. Taraborrelli michaelmt_1999@yahoo.com

The Prez Sez ...

Hello Phil-Mont,

The good news is the leaves will be falling off the trees. Why is that good? Your signals will get out further. It's almost like adding an amplifier to your station. Hopefully "Sol" will co-operate and send us some spots for the winter. Band openings are wonderful when you are stuck indoors.

This month's PMRC club meeting is traditionally called "Old Timers Night." We look forward to seeing some of our long time members come out and reminisce about their exploits in our club and our hobby. One problem some members have is getting to the meeting at night. I know I find night driving more challenging than it used to be. I am asking you to check in with some of the people you talk to on the radio that would appreciate an offer of transportation to the meeting. Check the club directory and see who lives near you.

I mentioned in last month's Blurb that yearly elections will take place at the December meeting. The Nominating Committee is still making calls and if you have not heard from them they want to hear from you.

Our HF nets have been getting more check-ins lately. That is very encouraging. If you know anyone who needs help setting up their station to get on the bands, let us know. There are many members who are willing and able to help out. The summer is over, but the "bug" is still biting.

Hope to see many of you at the November meeting.

de Ed, KB3IV

Phil-Mont

Birthdays & Tidbytes

November Birthdays

- 05 Al Tribble-W3STW
- 12 Arnold Sadwin-KC2HX
- 14 William Nicholson-W3KOC
- 15 Edythe Victor (XYL WA2DTW)
- 19 Brad Swanson-N3GLH
- 20 Bob Gargano-N3YGY
- 22 Bill Popovic-W3AOK
- 23 Ted Hassell-KB3HAQ
- 24 Samuel Leidy-KF3G
Delores Policarpo (XYL N3PP)
- 27 Mel Toren-N2MT
- 29 Bob Nicotera-KB2ERL
Betty Walmsley (XYL W3DO)

Membership Stats

At press time PMRC had:

- 80 Full Paid Members
- 8 Family Members
- 6 Youth Members (Under 17)
- 2 Honorary Members
- 1 Pending Member

NOTE: Please contact Ed, KB3IV, with any future directory changes or mailing issues.



***This month's VE session is on the third
Thursday, November 18th,
due to the holiday.***

VE news continued next page

***The Thursday night, October 28th session
saw two candidates attempt 3 elements.
Two new tech tickets were issued.
As always many thanks to our VE team !***

From the Secretary

PMRC BoD Meeting Minutes, October 6th, 2010

KB3IV began the meeting at 2000. Attending the meeting were Ed, KB3IV; Al, W3STW; Steve, WU3I; Gene, N3XKE; Fred, WA3KIO; Bob, KB2ERL; and Jen KB3MIV. The last Board of Directors meeting was in June.

KB3IV reviewed the finances. All members accepted the report. There was a new member at the September General Meeting, Joe Barbere, KB3UDX. The Board voted and accepted his application for membership. Scholarship for 2011 – we are working with the FAR (Foundation for Amateur Radio) for three scholarships to be available next year. Programs – For the October General Meeting we will be watching a video, “B29 Frozen in Time”. The November General Meeting is Old Timer’s Night. Archives – We are looking for an archivist for the club. They must be well organized with plenty of space. Nominations – We plan to discuss nominations for Board of Director Chair People at the November meetings. W3STW is the nominating committee. The meeting was adjourned at 2125.

PMRC General Meeting Minutes, October 13th, 2010

Ed, KB3IV, called the meeting to order at 1955. There were 24 people attending. KB3IV asked for the guests to introduce themselves.

W3RM gave the Treasurer’s report. The finances are in good shape. W3RM reported on the plan for three scholarships for 2011 instead of one. KB3IV suggested getting youngsters interested in the hobby for the opportunity to be eligible for the college scholarships. N3XKE recognized our newest member, Joe Barbere, KB3UDX, voted in at our previous Board of Directors meeting. W3STW brought awareness to everyone about the Digital

Net every Tuesday from 7pm to 9pm. He said the net features various modems to transmit information and helps us to be prepared in case of emergency situations. Nominating Committee – W3STW informed everyone that there are openings for volunteers to be on the club’s Board of Directors. We will be discussing this further at next month’s meeting. KB3IV stated that the Sunday Nets need controller volunteers. Please don’t be shy to step up if you are interested. Everything is scripted. W3AOK reported the repeater is working well. There were a few minor glitches that were discussed and explained. KB3IV opened the floor to new business and Jules, KB3AFH, mentioned there was some interest in a social event. KB3IV spoke about Old Timers Night at next month’s meeting. If you know an old timer that needs a ride, please make those arrangements with them to bring them along. W3AOK began the program for the evening, which was two videos, “B-29 Frozen in Time,” and “P-38 Glacier Girl”. We also watched some ARRL commercials. KB3IV let everyone know if they have anything they would like to share with the club for a program during the General Meeting to please let him know. The meeting adjourned at 2123.

de Jen, KB3MIV

New member application

Membership Application (from the General Meeting)

James A. Kavanagh - KB3USZ (Jim)
4132 Buttercup Lane
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462-1518
Phone: 610-825-8648
License Class: General (Expires 06-15-2020)
DOB: 05-15-37
Email: jkavanagh4132@comcast.net

de Dick, W3RM

Radio Stores ... 'N' More

by Bob Thomas, W3NE

THE BENT PROP PROJECT**Bringing Home WW-II MIAs**

The following article has nothing to do with amateur radio; it is related to Veterans Day, which will be observed on the 11th of this month. It describes the efforts of small group of private citizens dedicated to finding U.S. airmen lost in the South Pacific during WW-II and seeing that they, or their final resting place, are honored by a grateful nation in the presence of their survivors.

The story begins in August, 1993. A scandalous article was scheduled for publication in the next issue of *Harpers* magazine, in which a very prominent politician, who had been a Navy pilot in WW-II, would be accused of committing crimes of war for sinking an allegedly unarmed 150-foot Japanese fishing trawler in an island grouping known as Palau. The politician's supporters, outraged by that preposterous accusation, recognized that indisputable proof of his innocence could be obtained only by an actual examination of the sunken ship. An exploratory team of experts was quickly assembled for travel to Palau, where the wrecked vessel would have be located and physical evidence obtained to discredit the ruinous article. The team was comprised of a diver/historian experienced in documenting ship

wrecks, another diver who was a magnetometer expert, two adventurous dive shop operators, and a medical doctor and his wife, who happened to be a dive instructor with deep sea experience. After arrival at Palau the exploratory team quickly located the trawler's wreckage under forty feet of water. Among the items found by divers on and near the wrecked ship were a mount for a large gun, munitions boxes filled with 75mm anti-aircraft shells, boxes of machine gun ammunition, and thousands of rounds of small arms ammo. This had been no innocent fishing trawler! Evidence was collected and photographs made for a press release. The politician was indisputably cleared of the false accusations and the impending *Harpers* article summarily quashed. Having completed their mission, all the members of the team returned home except for the physician and his wife, who were so fascinated by islanders' descriptions of crashed American aircraft throughout Palau, they stayed on to inspect some of the crash sites. The physician was Patrick Scannon, M.D., PhD, who became so consumed by the unknown fate of missing crewmen, he became committed to returning to Palau to document crash sites that had been long forgotten by our government. The *Bent Prop Project* was born.

Looking back to the spring of 1944, the U.S. 1st Marine Division had captured Guadalcanal, and would soon move on to the hellish battle on Iwo Jima. But before that, they had to be diverted to capture the island of Peleliu, part of the Palau group, 300 nautical miles north of New Guinea and 500 miles east of the Philippines. The Japanese had a heavily fortified airfield on Peleliu that threatened the flank of General MacArthur's retake of the Philippines.

An attack on Palau from the air began on the last day of March 1944 and continued for six months until the Peleliu airfield had been captured by the 1st Marine Division after one of the bitterest battles of the war. Even so, pockets of Japanese remained active on the island until the last day of the war, prolonging exposure of our planes and ground forces to intermittent attack. Carrier-based *Corsairs* and TBM *Avengers* initially combined with B-24 bombers from New Guinea in coordinated attacks on enemy aircraft, naval and maritime ships and land fortifications, as well as laying mines to

prevent escape of Japanese ships. Resistance from the air defenses was limited; losses to our aircraft resulted mainly from anti-aircraft fire. Nevertheless, in five months of action over Palau, more than two hundred American aviators were lost – declared “Missing in Action.” The missing men perished when their planes went down at sea or were killed on impact or captured and subsequently executed by beheading if they had the misfortune to crash on land. Today, after 65 years of exposure to tropical weather or immersion in deep salt water, most traces of the planes and their heroic crews have vanished, but enough sometimes remains to identify the aircraft, enabling crew members to be traced from government records. That’s where Pat Scannon and the *Bent Prop Project* come in.

Pat Scannon returned alone to Palau a year after the “Trawler Affair” to explore the island aided by a talented Palauan guide and translator. They interviewed elder residents who had been alive during the war and still remembered where airplanes crashed. Wreckage of a Marine Corsair was found and they made cursory explorations of other crash sites that held possibilities for further investigation, which Pat began by himself the following year. It became obvious to Scannon, however, that the necessarily meticulous investigations required to eventually identify missing crewmen, and discovery of the more obscure crash sites, would require exploration by experts in several fields. That is when the *Bent Prop Project* came to fruition. The idea received immediate, enthusiastic support from a group of West Coast explorers, divers, and adventurers. The first organized trip to Palau was made by Scannon and four eager cohorts in 1997. Slogging through chest-deep black muck in swamps, hacking their way in mangrove jungles, and scuba diving in shallow waterways protected by barrier reefs, they discovered airplane wreckage at four crash sites – one in shallow water – but were unable to locate a B-24 known to have crashed at sea.



Bent Prop explorers do not disturb anything at a crash out of respect for the crewmen, but clues retrieved at each site, from faded registration marks, manufacturers’ identification data, serial numbers, and even a “bent prop” found scattered in the debris field, are used for researching official records. Information judged potentially useful is forwarded to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) who conduct exacting forensic investigations to determine identities and recover human remains associated with the crash. JPAC goes to great lengths to accomplish this: On land they divide the crash field into a grid, then meticulously place earth and debris from each segment in numbered pails for subsequent screening to separate anything that might lead to identifying the airmen. At sea they literally vacuum the ocean floor into containers that are later examined for evidence, such as part of a flight jacket, a dog tag, bone fragments or personal jewelry.

JPAC’s underwater investigative methods were crucial to the successful return of missing crewmen from a B-24 that had been shot down over waters near Palau. Wreckage of the plane had been found in 40-feet of water after an exhaustive search extending over ten years by *Bent Prop* teams. Comingled remains of seven crew members who went down with their plane were recovered by JPAC and returned to the U.S. for positive identification.



Eight airmen, shot down near Palau on September 1, 1944, are laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery on April 29, 2010.

Finally, just last April, a horse-drawn caisson carried a flag-draped casket containing those hallowed remains to a military funeral at Arlington Cemetery. Present among the families of the former MIA flyers was Charles Goulding, Jr. of Buckingham of Bucks County and his mother, who were son and wife of the B-24 radioman.

Bent Prop has conducted twenty-nine expeditions on Palau and its waters since 1994. When wreckage is definitely established, but there is no possibility of recovering human remains, the team gathers at the crash site holding a flag. The flag and a photograph of the ceremony are later presented to surviving kin who can at last come to terms with the final resting place of loved ones missing for so long. In more conclusive situations, remains identified by JPAC are returned and honored as was done for the B-24 crew. This is the best that can be done today to fulfill the motto, "Leave no man behind."

It appears that the *Bent Prop Project* is funded largely by an anonymous donor supplemented by donations from individuals close to the participants and proceeds from sale of a riveting DVD documenting their many successes. Volumes of fascinating information about this vital volunteer effort are available on the *Bent Prop Project* website at <http://www.bentprop.org/>

Oh, there is just one final detail to wrap-up this story: That politician who was at the root of Bent Prop's formation? He was Navy Ensign George H.W. Bush, 41st President of the United States.

Digital Net

Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club Digital Net (PMRCDN)

For the past several weeks Al W3STW and Barry K3EUI have been conducting the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club's Digital Net (PMRCDN). This activity takes place each non-holiday Tuesday evening from 1900 to 2000 hours local time using the Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater (frequency 147.030 MHz FM, +, PL 91.5).

In the last few years new digital modes have been developed, to support ARES/RACES organizations. These digital modes are capable of sending large amounts of data faster with better accuracy than voice. The purpose of PMRCDN is to encourage Club Members (and others) to become familiar with how to set up their 2 meter FM and/or HF station to a sound-card equipped computer, and how to use the software to receive and send emergency or non-emergency traffic.

On HF (10-80 meters) modes PSK and Olivia use a smaller bandwidth, making them more reliable under signal fading (QSB), noisy band conditions (QRN) and man made noise (QRM). Adverse effects of poor VHF and UHF band conditions are lessened using modes MT63, PSK or Olivia to pass traffic using FM or simplex.

In handling today's emergency messages hams often have to send large amounts of data, like names of injured persons, addresses, telephone numbers, etc. Voice is not conducive to transmitting this information. The most widely used software for ARES/RACES purposes is FLDIGI (free and works on Macs, Linux and Windows machines). Another popular and free application is DM-780, part of the Ham Radio Deluxe package.

We will be using the Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater (frequency 147.030 MHz FM, +, PL 91.5) rather than simplex in order to reach a wider geographic range of participants and listeners. Please join us at 1900 to 2000 each non-holiday Tuesday, conditions permitting, to learn more about the capability of digital modes on VHF. Later, the

Digital Net might move to an HF band like 75 meters.

During the net a clear channel is requested. Emergency and priority traffic may break into the net at anytime. As you check into the net, please give your name, call sign, related station equipment and the digital program you are using. Our agenda is taking check-ins, exchanging related comments, receiving and sending practice messages in various digital modes. We will go down the list of check-ins asking for your comments.

There are many digital programs as well as different send and receive equipments thus equipment audio setting a good understanding of how to achieve a clear signal (trace on your water fall) is necessary. Each net session will feature some aspect of how to obtain the best signal from your station as we practice sending, receiving and the procedures used in passing practice traffic digital signals via emergency traffic procedures.

de Al, W3STW and Barry, K3EUI

***Update from a PMRC
Scholarship recipient***



Will Chimel, KB3HUG

804 Laconia Circle
South Abington Township, PA 18411

October 1, 2010

Phil-Mont Radio Club
Richard A. Moll
P.O. Box 88
Abington, PA 19001

Dear Mr. Moll,

First, please accept my apologies for my first response not reaching you. It was sent shortly after I was informed of the award, but for some reason, you obviously never received it. Regardless, I wish to express my great appreciation to you and your fellow members of the Phil-Mont Club in providing this assistance to students like myself.

I am a sophomore at the Scranton campus of Penn State University, majoring in Information Technology. Unfortunately, I have a significant learning disability, and education has always required more time and effort, but with supportive parents and good teachers, I have done well. My first year at Penn State, I achieved a 3.2 GPA and received no support services.

Presently I am finishing up my 350-hour internship and am a partner in a small computer-related business. This started in early September and, while it has required a number of hours of my time, it appears to be very successful and we have high hopes. My partners are Information Technology graduates of Penn State.

Our family consists of three other hams, with my father, WA3LWR, celebrating more than 40 years of enjoying this great hobby. After he and my mother married, she decided to get a license (KD3GG) and is nearing 25 years of ham radio. She holds an Advanced class license. My brother Steven (KA3SRC) and I hold General class licenses. Steven is a former recipient of the Phil-Mont Scholarship and is employed in the Information Technology field.

While my free time is limited due to school, internship and a new business, I do enjoy using VHF and UHF communications from the car. I am excited by the ability of D-STAR and APRS. At present, I have been serving as the Assistant Emergency Coordinator for ARES and am

Secretary for the Elk Mountain Radio Society. I am a member of RACES, the Scranton Pocono Amateur Radio Club, and a SKYWARN spotter, and have assisted in training new hams and demonstrating amateur radio at many events. Together with my brother and father, I have also established a few APRS digies and install amateur radio equipment at some of the area hospitals and on top of a few mountains. This greatly increases the ability of amateurs to enjoy our hobby and provides better coverage in emergency situations.

Upon completion of my degree, I am hopeful of finding suitable employment in Eastern Pennsylvania or Southern New Jersey. Then, as my time becomes freed up, I hope to establish a complete amateur station and enjoy rag chewing with hams around the world and working some DX. Your scholarship will be of great assistance in reaching my educational goals, and hopefully starting me on a successful career. Hopefully, when I am better established, I too shall be able to assist other amateurs in reaching their educational goals.

Sincerely,
Willam D. Chimel, KB3HUG

De W3RM

For Sale

Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club has radio equipment donated to the Scholarship Fund for sale. Please review the list below and contact Steve, WU3I, if you have any interest or questions. Contact him at wu3i@arrl.net

Updated as of 9/21/2010
Radio shack Pro 40 headphones
Radio shack horn speaker
Radio shack pro 2026 Scanner
M3 freq counter
M3 Freq standard
Motorola mobile HT charger
Radio shack digital Multimeter
Diawa CN465 2m/70 cm meter 15/75 watts
Motorola house charger for ht
Kenpro KR400 RC rotor controller

Uniden Force HT with converttacom and extra battery
Scanner antenna
Ameritron AL 82 amp in service
Drake L4B amp
Ameritron RCS8V coax Switch
Autek WM1 Meter
Rig Blaster
Step Ir 4 element beam
Yaesu G800s Rotor
Wire antennas
Hazer system
u/v vertical antenna
50 feet tower with fold over base
6 foot create roof tower with thrust bearing
Ham IV with controller
Alliance HD 73 with controller
Alinco DR-605 dual band radio 2M/70CM

Mosley TA-33 beam \$100.00 each (2 available)
Cushcraft A-3 beam \$100.00 (1 available)

And ...

6 foot telephone relay rack on castors,
Optoelectronics FC-50 frequency counter,
ARRL handbooks 1933 - onward
Kreco 10 meter coaxial vertical antenna,
Antique headphones,
Multimeters, old technical books and parts.

Contact Tom Bohlander WA3KLR, 215-536-1331

Please feel free to forward to other clubs of which you are a member

Unfortunately I won't be able to attend the November meeting; I really enjoy old timer's night. I should be recovering from my surgery on the 8th and just getting back on my feet. So I want to tell the senior members of the club how great it is to hear about their experiences and take a moment to think for a while about how we got where we are. So to all the old timers, and veterans, out there, here's a big thank you from Blurb headquarters! - ed

November at PMRC ...

3rd **Wed - BoD Meeting**
7th **Sun - W3STW NCS**
10th **Wed - General Meeting &**
 Old Timer's Night!
11th **Veteran's Day – Fly the flag & Hug a Vet!**
14th **Sun - N3OWM NCS**
18th **Thurs – VE session**
21st **Sun - KB3IV NCS**
25th **Thurs - Thanksgiving**
28th **Sun - KB3SJV NCS**

And don't forget the **ARES** net every
 Sunday night at 2100L and the new **Digital**
Net Tuesdays at 1900L, both on W3QV/R

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First Class Mail

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc
 310 Saw Mill Lane, Apt 6D, Horsham PA 19044

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